

Dr. Hockett's statement on Dr. Auerbach's paper, simultaneously released in Dallas and New York, appeared in most stories.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Dallas, Texas

December 6, 1959

## Cancer Link Challenged By Tobacco Committee

Evidence presented here Friday that smoking causes pre-cancerous changes in lung tissue — as well as lung cancer — was immediately challenged by the Tobacco Industry Research Committee.

Dr. Robert C. Hockett of New York, who has had a scientific exhibit for the tobacco committee at the American Medical Association meeting here, issued his statement on the heels of the new report given to AMA by Dr. Oscar Auerbach of East Orange, N.J.

Dr. Hockett said: "These same observations, first publicized by Dr. Auerbach in 1956, have not

since been accepted by many other pathologists doing the same type of work and frequently studying many more lungs.

"Recent contradictions to the Auerbach findings make clear three points: First, cell changes found in human lungs occur in young or old, smokers and non-smokers. They are not limited to smokers.

"Second, lungs of heavy smokers may show no signs of such changes, so smoking does not necessarily lead to these changes.

"Third, many pathologists differ from Dr. Auerbach as to what is meant by a pre-cancerous condition."

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM & SUN

New York, New York

December 4, 1959

## MDs Report New Cancer Smoking Link

United Press International.

DALLAS, Dec. 4.—A team of medical researchers reported today it had found new evidence linking cigaret smoking to the prevalence of lung cancer.

Cigaretts are not only a major cause of the cancer itself, but also a factor leading to lung conditions favorable for the development of cancer, the report said.

The researchers, headed by Dr. Oscar Auerbach, chief of laboratory service at the Veterans Hospital in East Orange, N. J., and associate professor of pathology at New York Medical College, based their report on tissue samples taken from 402 men who died at the hospital.

63 Had Cancer.

Of that number, 63 died of lung cancer and the remainder of other causes.

Dr. Auerbach's report was said to be the first medical evidence in which tissue samples were studied to show a link between lung cancer and cigaret smoking.

The report was delivered at today's session of the American Medical Assn.'s 13th annual clinical meeting.

A five-year study showed that the prevalence of lung cancer, and of the conditions favorable for its development, were linked "almost completely" to the number of cigarettes smoked, according to the report.

### Proportion Noted.

Kinds and quantities of damage to the tissues lining the bronchi—tree-like tubes in which lung cancers grow—are in mathematical proportion to the number of cigarettes smoked, Dr. Auerbach said.

"These anatomical observations seem to us to indicate that cigaret smoking is today a major factor in the causation of lung cancer in men," he said. "This is in complete agreement with evidence previously obtained from extensive epidemiological studies." Epidemiology is the study of epidemic diseases.

Dr. Auerbach and his associates studied nearly 20,000 separate tissue samples. Nearest relatives of the 63 shown by the autopsy to have died of lung cancer said that all were smokers.

### Industry Dissents, Cites Other Studies

The Tobacco Industry Research Committee, a group representing cigaret manufacturers, issued a statement in New York disputing the Auerbach findings.

"These same observations first publicized by Dr. Auerbach in 1956 have not since been accepted by many other pathologists doing the same type of work and frequently studying many more lungs," said Dr. Robert C. Hockett, associate scientific director of the committee.

Citing several scientific studies to bear out his assertions, Dr. Hockett said that "cell changes found in human lungs occur in young and old, smokers and non-smokers."

"Lungs of heavy smokers may show no signs of such changes," he added, "so smoking does not necessarily lead to these changes."